

ground forces. In various higher headquarters staff positions, including his time as the Marine Corps' Deputy Commandant for Programs and Resources, General Thomas had a lasting impact on the Nation's military readiness, enhancing our preparedness to face challenges around the globe. We are all safer due to his diligence and faithful dedication to duty.

General Thomas' final tour in the Marine Corps is as the Assistant Commandant of the Marine Corps. During a tremendously challenging period for the Marine Corps, the Department of Defense, and the Nation as a whole, General Thomas provided guidance and leadership with exceptional skill and drive. His broad knowledge base and expertise, his ability to foresee the impact of policy changes on the current readiness and future health of the Marine Corps, and his camaraderie and goodwill with senior leadership throughout the Department of Defense and U.S. Congress proved to be supremely valuable in his role as the Service Vice Chief. His sound judgment and recommendations reached the highest levels of leadership in the Legislative and Executive branches of the U.S. Government. General Thomas' steady leadership during these challenging times is just one more example of the type of Marine that he is—one of our very best.

Over his years of faithful service, General Thomas has earned the Defense Superior Service Medal, the Legion of Merit, and the Bronze Star, among other awards.

General Thomas has served our Nation for 37 years and will retire on October 15, 2021. His extraordinary professionalism has had a profound and lasting influence on generations of Marines and our entire institution. His leadership and mastery of the art and science of the profession of arms are in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Marine Corps. I am delighted to have this opportunity to recognize not only General Thomas, but his entire family for their incredible service to the U.S. Marine Corps and our great Nation. Their sacrifice and dedication is truly remarkable, and a testament to the caliber of patriots our country produces. I wish him and his beloved wife, Catherine, all the best as they embark on a new chapter in their lives. God bless the Thomases, God bless the United States of America, and Semper Fidelis.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RICHARD HUDSON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 28, 2021

Mr. HUDSON. Madam Speaker, I was unavoidably detained and missed a vote. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 296.

DEPUTY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
2021 NATIONAL BLUE RIBBON
SCHOOL

HON. GREG PENCE

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 28, 2021

Mr. PENCE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Deputy Elementary School on being named a National Blue Ribbon school for 2021.

Deputy Elementary School has worked to create a challenging, safe, and rewarding environment for all students. They provide superior educational and developmental opportunities for students while having a positive impact on our surrounding community.

Deputy Elementary School is recognized by the United States Department of Education for its overall academic excellence or their progress in closing achievement gaps among student groups, demonstrating that all students can achieve to high levels.

Congratulations to Principal Janet McCreary, students, parents and faculty on being an integral part of securing this fine honor.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE OF CAROLYN CLAYTON

HON. TRENT KELLY

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 28, 2021

Mr. KELLY of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life of Carolyn Clayton who passed away Saturday, September 11 at the Baptist Memorial Hospital in New Albany. I join her family, friends, and loved ones in mourning her loss.

Carolyn was born on February 14, 1941 to Marlin and Maggie Curtis Evans. She worked at the Lee County Chancery Clerk's Office. She found joy in attending yard sales, gardening, and spending time with family.

Carolyn was the founder of the nonprofit organization, Survival Incorporated. The organization works to advocate for the victims of violent crimes across the state of Mississippi. She was awarded Victims Advocate of the Year.

Carolyn was married for 58 years to her husband, Joe, who passed away two months prior. Left to cherish her memory are her sons, Brad and Rob; grandchildren, Nikki, Kattie, Jack and Carson.

I am grateful for Mrs. Clayton's lifetime of service to the state of Mississippi.

IN RECOGNITION OF HASSAN
JABER'S OVER 40 YEARS OF
SERVICE AS PRESIDENT AND
CEO OF ACCESS

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 28, 2021

Mrs. DINGELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Hassan Jaber on the occa-

sion of his retirement from The Arab Community Center for Economic and Social Services (ACCESS) after over 40 years of service to the organization. His contributions to the Arab American community in Michigan and across the country are significant and deserve to be recognized.

Mr. Jaber was born in Lebanon and immigrated to the United States in 1977. He attended Wayne State University in Detroit, Michigan. He worked at ACCESS for several years in various roles before ultimately serving as CEO and President. Throughout his lifetime, Mr. Jaber has sought to address the challenges facing Arab Americans. He has done this through collaborating with national foundations, think tanks, policy, civil rights, and advocacy organizations. A testament to his devotion to his heritage despite his busy schedule, he still found time to teach Arabic Language & Culture to students at the University of Michigan—Dearborn.

Based in Dearborn, Michigan—the heart of the Arab American community in the United States—ACCESS is a nonprofit that honors Arab American heritage through community-building and service. They provide medical, public health, mental health, and other support services through their Community Health and Research Center. ACCESS also aids with employment services, citizenship preparation courses, youth programs, and philanthropy related to Arab American culture and community giving. The programs that they provide help so many of our neighbors each day and truly change the lives of the people they serve. Under Mr. Jaber's leadership ACCESS has grown from simple beginnings as a group of volunteers seeking to help the Arab immigrant population adapt to American life to a vast support system for Arab Americans from all walks of life. With Mr. Jaber at the helm, they opened the very first Arab American Museum in the nation.

Those who know him know Mr. Jaber's integrity, empathy, and his endless quest for equity and justice. From my days serving on the Board at ACCESS I have personally experienced his compassion and wisdom and know how much he cares for the people of his community. He is a proud American, someone who is patriotic and is unafraid to show it. In his next role he will be as a consultant for ACCESS, focusing on national policy and advocacy and cultivating the next generation of Arab American leaders.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Hassan Jaber for four decades of service with ACCESS. His outstanding commitment to the Arab American community here in Dearborn and beyond has made all the difference. I join with Hassan's family, friends, and colleagues in extending my best wishes to him in his next role. His positive impact will be felt for years to come and we are beyond grateful for his leadership.